Requesting Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC)

Medical Evacuation

- movement of casualties by medical ground/air ambulances to a medical treatment facility
- the term MEDEVAC is used when military medical vehicles (medical personnel aboard) are used for transport
- the term CASEVAC is used when non-medical vehicles are used to evacuate casualties

MEDEVAC Request

- transmitted over radio
- makes transmission of information faster, clearer, and more accurate
- same format for both air and ground evac
- helps medical units determine correct priority for committing evacuation assets
- helps to ensure that the casualty receives appropriate evacuation

MEDEVAC Request

- proper casualty classification is needed to ensure that casualties are evacuated according to their needs
- casualties are picked up as soon as possible, consistent with available resources and pending missions
- over classification: The tendency to classify a wound or injury as being more severe than it actually is

Preparing a MEDEVAC Request

- special 9-line format
- rather than stating type of information, a line number is given
- brevity codes used
- transmitted in sequence (line 1, then line 2, and so forth)
- two formats, one for combat and one for peacetime

Lines 1 through 5

- must be transmitted before the evacuation mission begins

- remaining lines should be transmitted at the same time if possible, but can be transmitted to the ground or air ambulance en route

Line 1: Location of Pickup Site

Using a map, determine the grid coordinates (eight digits) of the site where the air or ground ambulance will pick up the casualties

This information allows the unit coordinating evacuation to plan the ambulance's route so it can pick up casualties from more than one site, if appropriate

Line 2: Radio Frequency, Call Sign, and Suffix

- radio frequency, call signal, and suffix of signal operation instructions can be obtained from the Signal Operating Instruction (SOI) or from the Automated Net Control Device (ANCD) or from the radio supervisor
- this information is needed so that the evacuation vehicle crew can contact the requesting unit while en route. For example, when you pop smoke, the air ambulance will call to verify the color of the smoke you initiated. (The enemy may also produce smoke to try to confuse the

Line 3: Number of Casualties by Precedence

- **classify your casualty or casualties based upon your evaluation of the casualty or casualties**

- **<u>URGENT</u>: emergency case that should be evacuated as soon as possible and within a maximum of 2 hours in order to save live, limb, or eyesight**

- **<u>URGENT SURGICAL</u>: emergency case that should be evacuated within 2 hours to the nearest surgical unit**

Line 3: Number of Casualties by Precedence

- **<u>PRIORITY:</u> sick or wounded person requiring prompt medical care and who should be evacuated within 4 hours or his medical condition could deteriorate to such a degree that he could become an urgent precedence**

- **<u>ROUTINE:</u> sick or wounded person requiring evacuation, but whose condition is not expected to deteriorate significantly. Should be evacuated within 24 hours**

- **<u>CONVIENIENT:</u> person who is being medically evacuated for medical convenience rather than necessity**

Line 4: Special Equipment Required

- determine what special equipment, if any, will need to be placed aboard the ambulance before it begins the mission
- required so that the equipment can be placed on board the evacuation vehicle prior to the start of the mission
- most common items for an air ambulance are hoist, Stokes litter, forest penetrator and ventilator. Another common special equipment requirement is a Rescue Air Mobility Squad (RAMS)

Line 5: Number of Casualties by Type

- **determine the number of casualties that will evacuated on a litter and the number of casualties that are able to sit (ambulatory)**
- **needed to determine the appropriate number of evacuation vehicles to be dispatched to the pickup site**
- **needed to configure the vehicles to carry the casualties requiring evacuation**

Line 6: Security of Pickup Site

<u>Determine whether proposed pickup site is secure:</u>

- **no enemy troops in area**
- **possibly enemy troops in area; approach with caution**
- **enemy troops in area; approach with caution**
- **enemy troops in area; armed escort required**

Line 7: Method of Marking Pickup Site

Panels

Pyrotechnic signal

Smoke signal

Signal person

Strips of fabric or parachute

Tree branches, wood, stones

Signal lamp, flashlight, vehicle lights

Open flame

Line 8: Casualty Nationality and Status

- number of casualties in each category does not need to be determined

- helps the unit coordinating the evacuation to identify which facilities should receive casualties and whether guards are needed

Line 8: Casualty Nationality and Status

The categories are:

- United States military
- US civilian
- Military other than US military
- Civilian other than US civilian
- Enemy prisoner of war (EPW)

Line 9: NBC Contamination

- **determine if chemical, biological, and/or radiological contamination is present based upon the military situation**

- **if there is no contamination, this line is <u>not</u> transmitted**

Procedure Words (prowords)

Keeps voice transmission short and concise

- **“ROGER”**
- **“WILCO”**
- **“WAIT”**
- **“SAY AGAIN”**
- **“CORRECTION”**
- **“OVER”**

Phonetic Alphabet and Numbers

Used to avoid confusion and errors during transmission

ALPHA	**WUN**
BRAVO	**TREE**
CHARLIE	**FOWER**
DELTA	**FIFE**
ECHO	**NINER**
FOXTROT	

(if multiple digits, say each number individually)

Transmitting Rules

Forbidden practices:

- violation of radio silence
- unofficial conversation between operators
- transmission on net without permission
- excessive tuning and testing
- transmission of operators personal sign/name
- unauthorized use of plain language
- use of other than authorized prowords
- profane, indecent, or obscene language

Transmitting

- **transmit the opening statement: “I HAVE A MEDEVAC REQUEST. OVER”**
- **break 1-3 seconds for acknowledgement by receiving operator**
- **transmit entire MEDEVAC request, line by line, using phonetic letters and numbers**
- **after transmitting request, state “OVER” and wait for acknowledgement**

TYPE OF INFORMATION	*INFORMATION*	*TRANSMITTED REMARKS/ SPECIAL INSTRUCTION*
Location of Pickup Site	**Line 1** Grid coordinates of pickup site	To preclude misunderstanding, a statement should be made that grid zone letters are included in the message.
Radio Frequency, Call Sign and Suffix	**Line 2** Frequency of the radio at the pickup site Call sign and suffix	The call sign (and suffix, if used) is that of the person to be contacted at the pickup site.
Number of Casualties by Precedence	**Line 3** Number of casualties Brevity code	Brevity Codes: **A** (Urgent) **B** (Urgent surgical) **C** (Priority) **D** (Routine) **E** (Convenience) If two or more categories must be reported in the same request, insert the proword BREAK between each category.
Special Equipment Required	**Line 4** Brevity code	Brevity Codes: **A** (None) **B** (Hoist) **C** (Extraction equipment) **D** (Ventilator)
Number of Casualties by Type	**Line 5** Number of casualties Brevity code	Brevity Codes: **L** (Litter) **A** (Ambulatory) If both types are included in the same request, insert the proword BREAK between the types.

TYPE OF INFORMATION	*INFORMATION*	*TRANSMITTED REMARKS/ SPECIAL INSTRUCTION*
Security of Pickup Site (wartime)	**Line 6** Brevity code	Brevity Codes: **N** (No enemy troops in area) **P** (Possible enemy troops in area; approach with caution) **E** (Enemy troops in area; approach with caution) **X** Enemy troops in area; armed escort required)
Methods of Marking Pickup Site	**Line 7** Brevity code	Brevity Codes: **A** (Panels) **B** (Pyrotechnic signal) **C** (Smoke signal) **D** (None) **E** (Other)
Casualty Nationality and Status	**Line 8** Brevity code	Brevity Codes: **A** (Military, U.S) **B** (Civilian, U.S) **C** (Military, non-US) **D** (Civilian, non-US) **E** (Enemy prisoner of war) The number of casualties in each category is not transmitted.
NBC Contamination (wartime)	**Line 9** Brevity code	Brevity Codes: **N** (Nuclear) **B** (Biological) **C** (Chemical) This line is included only when applicable. **Do not** transmit line 9 if no CBR contamination is present

Check On Learning

CHECK ON LEARNING

- The MEDEVAC request format is used to request _____.
- Of the nine lines of information in a wartime evacuation request, the first _____ lines must be transmitted before the ambulance begins its mission.
- Of the nine lines of information in a wartime evacuation request, which line is omitted if it is not applicable?

Ground and Air Evacuation

5

9, NBC only if applicable

CHECK ON LEARNING

- What has historically been a problem with requests for medical evacuation?

Over classification

- A “priority” casualty should be evacuated within:

4 hours

- An “urgent” or “urgent surgical” casualty should be evacuated within:

2 hours

- Casualties are divided into two types (line 5). They are:

Ambulatory and Litter

QUESTIONS?

Written Performance Examination